



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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June 4, 2009

To Interested Parties:

The enclosed packet includes: WAC descriptions of fishing areas in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, two summary sheets of regulations governing the 2009 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor commercial fishing seasons, copies of the WAC regulations pertaining to the all commercial fisheries in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, maps of each harbor with commercial boundary lines, a flyer for the new white sturgeon regulations and a summary sheet for Quick Reporting.

Final regulations have been adopted and will be published under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) prior to the 2009 Fall Commercial Salmon management period. Items of special note are identified below.

Willapa Bay Fall Fishery – The fall commercial gillnet season is scheduled to begin at 6 pm September 15 through 6 pm September 19, 2009 for the first period. The maximum mesh size allowed is 6-inches. Nets may be no more than 55 meshes deep and must hang straight from the top to bottom and strings may only be used to secure breakaway panels. Beginning 6 pm September 22nd, the eastern deadline restriction at marker 40 in Area 2H will be removed but reinstated November 10th – 19th. September 22nd through October 31st, the maximum mesh size is 6 ½ inches. November 6th through November 30th, the minimum mesh size is 9-inches except 6 pm November 10th through 6 pm November 19th when either the 9-inch minimum mesh or 6-inch maximum mesh may be used. When using a 6-inch maximum mesh, nets may be no more than 55 meshes deep and must hang straight from the top to bottom and strings may only be used to secure breakaway panels. Only ONE net of either 9-inch or 6-inch configuration may be used when in the act of fishing.

Grays Harbor Fall Fishery – In Areas 2C, ALL wild coho, non-legal sturgeon and steelhead must be released. The maximum mesh size allowed is 9-inches. Live boxes are **required** for wild coho release and soak time is limited to 45 minutes. Notice of Intent to fish is **required** to the Quick Reporting phone, fax or email prior to 5 pm August 28th, 2009

There are a total of 6 fishing days scheduled in Area 2C. The fall commercial gillnet season is as follows: 6 pm September 3rd through 6 pm September 4th (24 hrs), 6 pm September 8th through 6pm September 9th (24 hrs), 6 am September 13th through 6 pm September 14th (36 hrs), 6 am September 20th through 6 pm September 21st (36 hrs), and 6 pm September 29th through 6 pm

September 30th (24 hrs).

A new method of measuring white sturgeon is **required** statewide as of January 1, 2009. This new method measures FORK LENGTH, from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail with the fish on its side. Total length has been correlated to fork length so the actual size of sturgeon that may be retained will not change. The new legal fork length size limit is 43 – 54 inches. Fork length is easier to measure both for the angler and for enforcement and will reduce handling time of the fish.

The NOAA Fisheries listed the southern population of green sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act effective July 6, 2006. Most of the green sturgeon taken in Washington fisheries are from the southern population. Therefore, **the retention of green sturgeon is prohibited to protect this federally listed stock.**

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed; this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The Quick Reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.**

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 664-0689
- telephone 1-866-791-1280
- email to harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov

The quick reporting summary must include: the dealer’s name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date (including **alpha letter** preceding the fish ticket number), commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” has been included for your convenience or you can go to our website and download a copy at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport_form.xls

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-4628 at the Region 6 Montesano office.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.